

**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

29

Application Number

09/558,755

Filing Date

April 21, 2000

RECEIVED

First Named Inventor

Hosea

CENTRAL FAX CENTER

Art Unit

3625

MAR 21 2005

Examiner Name

Tariq R. Hafiz

Attorney Docket Number

SEDN/PRED123

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

- Fee Transmittal Form
 Fee Attached
 Amendment / Reply
 After Final
 Affidavits/declaration(s)
 Extension of Time Request
 Express Abandonment Request
 Information Disclosure Statement
 Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
 Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application
 Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR1.52 or 1.53

- Drawing(s)
 Licensing-related Papers
 Petition
 Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application
 Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address
 Terminal Disclaimer
 Request for Refund
 CD, Number of CD(s) _____
 Landscape Table on CD

- After Allowance Communication to TC
 Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
 Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
 Proprietary Information
 Status Letter
 Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):

Remarks

Please charge these fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0782

- Appeal Brief - \$500
- 1 month extension of time - \$120

Also, if necessary, charge any additional fee(s) or underpayments of fee(s) to Account No. 20-0782.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Moser, Patterson & Sheridan, LLP

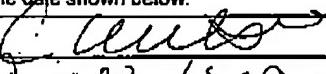
Signature 

Printed Name Eamon J. Wall

Date 3/10/05 Reg. No. 39,414

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Signature 

Typed or printed name E. J. Wall

Date 3-21-05

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

**TRANSMITTAL
FORM**

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

Application Number	09/558,755
Filing Date	April 21, 2000
First Named Inventor	Hosea
Art Unit	3625
Examiner Name	Tariq R. Hafiz
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	Attorney Docket Number
	SEDN/PRED123

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Reply	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD	
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application		
<input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

Remarks

Please charge these fees to Deposit Account No. 20-0782

- Appeal Brief - \$500
- 1 month extension of time - \$120

Also, if necessary, charge any additional fee(s) or underpayments of fee(s) to Account No. 20-0782.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Moser, Patterson & Sheridan, LLP

Signature 

Printed Name Eamon J. Wall

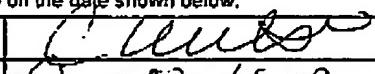
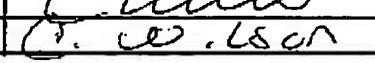
Date 3/17/05

Reg. No.

39,414

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Signature Typed or printed name 

Date 3-21-05

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

250145_1.DOC

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER
MAR 21 2005

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. SEDN/PRED123

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Application of:
Hosea et al.

Serial No.: 09/558,755

Confirmation No.: 9034

Filed: April 21, 2000

For: METHOD AND SYSTEM
FOR WEB USER
PROFILING AND
SELECTIVE CONTENT
DELIVERY

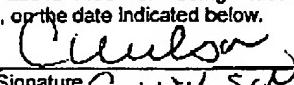
MAIL STOP APPEAL BRIEF-PATENTS
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

§ Group Art Unit: 3625

§ Examiner: Tariq R. Hafiz

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, on the date indicated below.

3-21-05
Date


Signature C. Wilson

Dear Sir:

APPEAL BRIEF

Applicants submit this Appeal Brief to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on appeal from the decision of the Examiner of Group Art Unit 3625 dated November 12, 2003, finally rejecting claims 1-63. The final rejection of claims 1-63 is appealed. This Appeal Brief is believed to be timely, because it is mailed by the extended due date of March 19, 2005, as set by the Notice of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief mailed on January 19, 2005. Authorization to charge the fee of \$500.00 for filing this brief is provided on a separate fee transmittal. A petition for a one-month extension of time is also enclosed. Please charge any additional fees that may be required to

make this Appeal Brief timely and acceptable to Deposit Account No. 20-0782/SEDN/PRED123.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Identification Page.....	1
2. Table of Contents	2
3. Real Party in Interest	3
4. Related Appeals and Interferences	4
5. Status of Claims	5
6. Status of Amendments	6
7. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter	7
8. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal	9
9. Arguments	10
10. Conclusion	14
11. Claims Appendix	15

Real Party in Interest

The present application has been assigned to Sedna Patent Services LLC, 1500 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Serial No.: 09/558,755
Appeal Brief
Atty. Dkt. No. SEDN/PRED123
310434 1 DCC

Related Appeals and Interferences

Applicant asserts that no other appeals or interferences are known to the Applicant, the Applicant's legal representative, or assignee which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-63 are pending in the application. Claims 1-63 were originally or previously presented in the application. Claims 1-63 stand finally rejected as discussed below. The final rejections of claims 1-63 are appealed. The pending claims are shown in the attached Claims Appendix.

Status of Amendments

All claim amendments have been entered by the Examiner. No amendments to the claims were proposed after the final rejection.

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Exemplary embodiments of the invention provide a method and system for accurately and anonymously profiling Web users and for selectively delivering content such as advertisements to users based on their profiles. The system uses behavioral information preferably collected at the users' point of connection to the Internet to anonymously profile their interests and demographics. It accurately matches and delivers content to the users to which they will likely be most receptive. Advertisers can use the system to launch effective advertising campaigns delivering selected Web content to chosen target audiences. The system uses feedback from users to determine the effectiveness of an advertising campaign and allows dynamic modification of the advertising campaign by, e.g., altering the target audience, to optimize results. (Figures 2 and 6; p. 3, lines 3-12; abstract).

In exemplary embodiments of independent claim 1, a method of profiling a Web user (p. 3, lines 3-12; Figure 4; p. 7, line 21 to p. 18, line 21), comprises providing profiles 34 on a plurality of Web sites 14; using a computer 10, 16, 18 to monitor which of said plurality of Web sites the user accesses; and using a computer 10, 16, 18 to develop a profile 34 of the user by inferring user demographics based on the profiles 34 of the Web sites 14 accessed by the user.

In exemplary embodiments of independent claim 22, a computer for profiling a Web user (p. 3, lines 3-12; Figures 2-5 and 7-11; p. 7, line 4 to p. 23, line 22), comprises a memory 10, 16, 18 for storing a program; and a processor 10, 16, 18 operative with the program to: (a) monitor which of a plurality of Web sites 14 the user accesses; and (b) develop a profile 34, 50 of the user by inferring demographics of the user based on predetermined profiles 34, 50 of the Web sites 14 accessed by the user.

In exemplary embodiments of independent claim 31, a system for profiling a Web user and delivering selective advertising to the user (p. 3, lines 3-12), comprises a database 34, 50 containing profile data 34, 50 on a plurality of Web sites 14; means for

(Figures 3 and 4; p. 7, line 8 to p. 18, line 21) monitoring which of said plurality of Web sites 14 the user accesses; means for (Figure 4; p. 7, line 21 to p. 18, line 21) developing a profile 34, 50 of the user by inferring demographics of the user using profile data 34, 50 of the Web sites 14 accessed by the user; means for (Figures 8, 9 and 11; p. 21, line 19 to p. 22, line 20; p. 23, line 5-12) matching the user with an advertisement 40, 54, 60 based on the developed user profile 34, 50; and means for (Figure 5, p. 18, line 22 to p. 19, line 25) delivering said advertisement 40, 54, 60 to the user.

In exemplary embodiments of independent claim 32, a system for inferring a profile 34, 50 of a person using a client computer for Web surfing, and delivering selective advertising 40, 54, 60 to the person based on his or her profile (p. 3, lines 3-12), comprises: a local server computer 16 linked to said client computer 10 for providing Internet access, said local computer 16 including means for (Figures 3 and 4; p. 7, line 8 to p. 18, line 21) monitoring which of said plurality of Web sites 14 the person accesses, means for (Figure 4; p. 7, line 21 to p. 18, line 21) developing a profile 34, 50 of the person by inferring demographics of the person based on predetermined profile 34, 50 data of the Web sites 14 accessed by the person, and means for (Figure 5, p. 18, line 22 to p. 19, line 25) delivering an advertisement 40, 54, 60 to the client computer 10; and a remote server computer 18 linked to said local server computer 16 and including means for (Figures 8, 9 and 11; p. 21, line 19 to p. 22, line 20; p. 23, line 5-12) matching an advertisement 40, 54, 60 received from an advertiser to said person based on his or her profile 34, 50, and means for (Figure 5, p. 18, line 22 to p. 19, line 25) transmitting said advertisement 40, 54, 60 to said local server computer for eventual transfer to the client computer 10.

In exemplary embodiments of independent claim 53, a computer readable medium comprises a program for profiling a Web user (p. 3, lines 3-12;) by performing the steps of: monitoring (Figures 3 and 4; p. 7, line 8 to p. 18, line 21) which of a plurality of Web sites 14 having predetermined profiles 34, 50 the user accesses; and developing (Figure 4; p. 7, line 21 to p. 18, line 21) a profile 34, 50 of the user by

inferring demographics of the user based on the profiles 34, 50 of the Web sites 14 accessed by the user.

In exemplary embodiments of independent claim 56, a computerized method of profiling Web users and selectively delivering content to said users (p. 3, lines 3-12), comprises: providing profiles 34, 50 of a plurality of Web sites 14, said profiles 34, 50 including demographic data of persons known to have visited said sites 14; electronically monitoring (Figures 3 and 4; p. 7, line 8 to p. 18, line 21) which of said plurality of Web sites 14 each of said users visits; developing a profile 34, 50 of each user by inferring demographics of the user based on the profiles of the Web sites 14 visited by the user; identifying (Figures 8, 9 and 11; p. 21, line 19 to p. 22, line 20; p. 23, line 5-12) a target group of said users who would be receptive to receiving certain content based on their profiles 34, 50; and selectively delivering (Figure 5, p. 18, line 22 to p. 19, line 25) the content to users of that target group.

Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

1. Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 11-14, 20, 22-24, 26-57, 62 and 63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,285,987 issued to Roth et al. ("Roth") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,208,975 issued to Bull et al. ("Bull").
2. Claims 3-6 and 10 stand rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roth.
3. Claims 15-18 stand rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roth in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,049,777 issued to Sheena et al. ("Sheena").
4. Claim 19 stands rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roth in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,298,348 issued to Eldering ("Eldering").
5. Claims 21 and 58-61 stand rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roth in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,295,061 issued to Park et al. ("Park").
6. Claim 25 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Roth in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,366,298 issued to Haitsuka ("Haitsuka").

ARGUMENTS

A. Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 11-14, 20, 22-24, 26-57, 62 and 63 are patentable over Roth in view of Bull

Claims 1, 2, 7-9, 11-14, 20, 22-24, 26-57, 62 and 63 stand rejected as being obvious over the combination of Roth and Bull. Claim 1 of the present application is directed to a method of profiling a Web user. The method includes providing profiles on a plurality of Web sites, monitoring which of those Web sites the user accesses, and developing a profile of the user by inferring user demographics based on the profiles of the Web sites accessed by the user.

Roth discloses an Internet advertising system. The Examiner concedes that Roth does not anywhere disclose developing a profile of the user by inferring user demographics based on the profiles of the Web sites accessed by the user. However, the Examiner contends that this feature is disclosed by Bull. In particular, the Examiner states that Bull discloses that the user's Web viewing patterns are monitored and matched against software text agents to match a profile (see col. 15, lines 14-19), including user demographics. The Examiner also states in this regard that although Bull also discloses the user is able to explicitly enter profile information, the information may alternatively be collected implicitly, via analysis of online sessions (see col. 1, lines 53-56).

Bull discloses an automated profile generation process. In particular, Bull teaches monitoring of user "looking patterns" to develop a set of software text agent profiles that are integrated with explicitly collected profile information. (col. 14, lines 56-58). Bull develops a user profile datastore from the monitoring of looking patterns and from the explicitly collected profile information. The user profile datastore contains "data about the user, preferences, situational preferences, accounting information,

psychographic profile, personal profile and other relevant information related to the user by individual identifier." (col. 10, lines 64-67).

Bull does not disclose or in any way suggest developing a profile of the user by inferring demographics of the user based on the profiles of the Web sites accessed by the user. Examples of demographic data can include, without limitation, data on the user's age, gender, income, and highest attained education level, as indicated, e.g., in claims 3-6, respectively. In accordance with the present application, demographics such as these are inferred for a user based on the profiles of the Web sites accessed by the user.

While Bull discloses developing user profiles based in part on user looking patterns, such profiles do not contain any inferred user demographics. As noted above, Bull only teaches collecting user preference information. Such preference information does not indicate user demographics.

In fact, the term "demographic data" is mentioned only once by Bull, and in reference to the prior art. In col. 5, lines 20-23, Bull states "Presently, user's profiles are collected based on explicit entry by the user and extraction from demographic data collected from a variety of sources." In the immediate next sentence, Bull goes on to distinguish his invention from this prior art by stating that he monitors user searching patterns and uses this partly to generate a set of software text agent profiles. Thus, the "demographic data" described by Bull with reference to the prior art is clearly not inferred, but simply a set of given data (apparently available from off-line sources) that is added to user profiles. Demographic data does not even relate to Bull's invention.

Therefore, neither Bull, nor Roth discloses or in any way suggests using a computer to develop a profile of a user by inferring user demographics based on profiles of Web sites accessed by the user.

Therefore, Independent claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Roth and Bull. Furthermore, each of the other independent claims, 22, 31, 32, 53, and 56 all require inferring user demographics. For at least the reasons noted above, 22, 31, 32, 53, and 56 are also patentable over Roth and Bull.

Claims 2, 7-9, 11-14, and 20 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and, thus, inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, claims 2, 7-9, 11-14, and 20 are also patentable over the combination of Roth and Bull.

Claims 23-24, and 26-30 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 22 and, thus, inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 22. Therefore, claims 23-24, and 26-30 are also patentable over the combination of Roth and Bull.

Claims 57, 62, and 63 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 56 and, thus, inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 22. Therefore, claims 57, 62, and 63 are also patentable over the combination of Roth and Bull.

In addition, claim 11 specifies that monitoring which of said plurality of Web sites the user accesses comprises identifying URL requests made by the user while Web surfing. Claim 12, which depends on claim 11, further specifies that the URL requests made by the user are identified at an ISP point of presence. This is not disclosed or suggested by Roth, which only discloses collecting information on Web sites viewed using cookies in a user's browser. In particular, Roth discloses that a viewer can access a Web page 11 that contains an HTML reference to the advertising server system 16. The server system 16 uses information from cookie 11A on the client browser to update the database of viewer information 16B to reflect that fact that this particular viewer has accessed this particular Web page. (col. 4, lines 26-50). Roth's advertising server 16 thus monitors Web pages accessed by the user. This advertising server 16 is not an ISP (i.e., Internet service provider) point of presence. The advertising server 16 does not provide Internet access for the client browser 11; it only

provides advertisements that are displayed on Web pages separately accessed by the client browser.

Roth makes reference to an ISP in FIGURE 7 and in column 19, lines 31-35. Roth states that the client browser sends Web HTML references to an ISP, which in turn sends the references to Roth's remotely located advertising server system. There is no mention of the ISP monitoring the Web sites visited by the user, much less by identifying URL requests.

The Examiner states that Roth discloses storing IP data including viewer URLs (col. 8, lines 20-28) in a table 408 (FIGURE 4). However, table 408 is part of a view server 320, which is not part of any ISP point of presence. There is simply no teaching or suggestion in Roth of monitoring at an ISP point of presence which of said plurality of Web sites the user accesses by identifying URL requests. The Examiner has not explained where Roth teaches any monitoring at an ISP point of presence.

Therefore, the rejection of claims 11 and 12 should be reversed.

Claim 23 is dependent on claim 22 and specifies that the computer for profiling a Web user is an ISP point of presence server. The Examiner contends that this is disclosed by ISP 712 connected to servers 716 in FIGURE 7. While the server 716, which is Roth's advertising server, is connected to the ISP 712, the ISP merely sends certain data to the server 716. The ISP does not in any way profile Web users, and does not have the elements of the computer specified in claims 22 and 23. The Examiner states on page 13 of the final office action that "[t]he computer in Roth indeed profiles users via their history data." The "computer" referred to by the Examiner is presumably Roth's advertising server 716, which arguably profiles users. However, Roth provides no teaching or suggestion whatsoever that the computer for profiling a Web user is an ISP point of presence server, rather than the advertising server. These rejections should therefore also be reversed.

B. Claims 3-6 and 10 are patentable over Roth.

Claims 3-6 and 10 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and, thus, inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 1. Therefore, claims 3-6, and 10 are also patentable over Roth.

C. Claims 15-18 are patentable over Roth in view of Sheena

Claims 15-18 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 and, thus, inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 1. Sheena adds nothing with regard to the above mentioned deficiencies of Roth. Therefore, claims 15-18 are patentable over the combination of Roth and Sheena.

D. Claim 19 is patentable over Roth in view of Eldering

Claim 19 depends from claim 1 and, thus, inherits the patentable subject matter of claim 1. Eldering adds nothing with regard to the above mentioned deficiencies of Roth. Therefore, claim 19 is patentable over the combination of Roth and Eldering.

E. Claims 21 and 58-61 are patentable over Roth in view of Park

Claim 21 depends indirectly from claim 1 and, thus, inherits the patentable subject matter of claim 1. Park adds nothing with regard to the above mentioned deficiencies of Roth. Therefore, claim 21 is patentable over the combination of Roth and Park.

Claims 58-61 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 56 and, thus, inherit the patentable subject matter of claim 56. Park adds nothing with regard to the above mentioned deficiencies of Roth. Therefore, claims 58-61 are patentable over the combination of Roth and Park.

F. Claim 25 is patentable over Roth in view Haitsuka

Claim 25 depends from claim 22 and, thus, inherits the patentable subject matter of claim 22. Haitsuka adds nothing with regard to the above mentioned deficiencies of Roth. Therefore, claim 25 is patentable over the combination of Roth and Haitsuka.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, each rejection of claims 1-63 should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,



Eamon J. Wall
Registration No. 39,414
Moser, Patterson & Sheridan, L.L.P.
595 Shrewsbury Avenue
Shrewsbury, NJ 07712
Telephone: (732) 530-9404
Facsimile: (732) 530-9808
Attorney for Appellant(s)

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A method of profiling a Web user, comprising:
providing profiles on a plurality of Web sites;
using a computer to monitor which of said plurality of Web sites the user
accesses; and
using a computer to develop a profile of the user by inferring user demographics
based on the profiles of the Web sites accessed by the user.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein the profile of the user contains
demographic data.
3. The method of Claim 2 wherein said demographic data includes data on
the user's age.
4. The method of Claim 2 wherein said demographic data includes data on
the user's gender.
5. The method of Claim 2 wherein said demographic data includes data on
the user's income.
6. The method of Claim 2 wherein said demographic data includes data on
the user's highest attained education level.
7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the profile of the user contains
psychographic data.
8. The method of Claim 7 wherein said psychographic data includes data on
the user's interests.

9. The method of Claim 1 wherein providing profiles on a plurality of Web sites comprises providing a database associating each of said plurality of Web sites with demographic characteristics of known persons who have accessed said sites.

10. The method of Claim 9 wherein said database is provided by a Web site ratings service.

11. The method of Claim 1 wherein monitoring which of said plurality of Web sites the user accesses comprises identifying Uniform Resource Locator (URL) requests made by the user while Web surfing.

12. The method of Claim 11 wherein said Uniform Resource Locator (URL) requests are identified at an Internet Service Provider (ISP) point of presence.

13. The method of Claim 12 wherein said Uniform Resource Locator (URL) requests are associated with a user and stored in a database.

14. The method of Claim 1 wherein developing a profile of a user comprises updating an existing user profile.

15. The method of Claim 14 wherein developing a profile of a user comprises combining the profiles of the Web sites accessed by the user to the existing user profile using an averaging algorithm.

16. The method of Claim 15 wherein said user profile includes data on a plurality of demographic categories, each associated with a rating, and the method further comprises filling in a value for the rating for any demographic category having a low confidence measure.

17. The method of Claim 16 wherein filling in a value comprises using an average rating of persons having similar profiles to that of said user for a category having a low confidence measure.

18. The method of Claim 17 wherein said average rating is determined using a clustering algorithm.

19. The method of Claim 1 further comprising erasing records of which Web sites said user has visited after developing the user's profile to protect user privacy.

20. The method of Claim 1 further comprising delivering selective advertising to said user based on his or her profile.

21. The method of Claim 20 wherein delivering selective advertising comprises transmitting a pop-up advertisement to a display of a computer operated by the user.

22. A computer for profiling a Web user, comprising:
a memory for storing a program; and
a processor operative with the program to:
(a) monitor which of a plurality of Web sites the user accesses; and
(b) develop a profile of the user by inferring demographics of the user based on predetermined profiles of the Web sites accessed by the user.

23. The computer of Claim 22 wherein said computer comprises an ISP point of presence server.

24. The computer of Claim 22 further comprising a database associating each of said plurality of Web sites with demographic characteristics of persons accessing said sites, said persons having known demographic characteristics.

25. The computer of Claim 22 wherein the program includes a sniffer for identifying Uniform Resource Locator (URL) requests made by the user while Web surfing.

26. The computer of Claim 22 further comprising a database in which the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) requests and associated user information are stored.

27. The computer of Claim 22 wherein said processor includes means for erasing records of which Web sites said user has visited after developing the user's profile to protect user privacy.

28. The computer of Claim 22 wherein said processor further transmits selective advertising to said user based on his or her profile.

29. The computer of Claim 22 wherein said advertising comprises a pop-up advertisement to be displayed on a display of a computer operated by the user.

30. The computer of Claim 22 wherein said computer cooperates with a computer operated by the user to display an advertisement on a display of the computer operated by the user, said advertisement being selected from a plurality of advertisements based on the profile of the user.

31. A system for profiling a Web user and delivering selective advertising to the user, comprising:

- a database containing profile data on a plurality of Web sites;
- means for monitoring which of said plurality of Web sites the user accesses;
- means for developing a profile of the user by inferring demographics of the user using profile data of the Web sites accessed by the user;
- means for matching the user with an advertisement based on the developed user profile; and
- means for delivering said advertisement to the user.

32. A system for inferring a profile of a person using a client computer for Web surfing, and delivering selective advertising to the person based on his or her profile, comprising:

a local server computer linked to said client computer for providing Internet access, said local computer including means for monitoring which of said plurality of Web sites the person accesses, means for developing a profile of the person by inferring demographics of the person based on predetermined profile data of the Web sites accessed by the person, and means for delivering an advertisement to the client computer; and

a remote server computer linked to said local server computer and including means for matching an advertisement received from an advertiser to said person based on his or her profile, and means for transmitting said advertisement to said local server computer for eventual transfer to the client computer.

33. The system of Claim 32 wherein said local server computer includes a local database containing data associating a plurality of Web sites with predetermined profile data on said sites.

34. The system of Claim 33 wherein said remote server computer includes a master database containing data associating a plurality of Web sites with predetermined profile data on said sites, and wherein data in said master database is periodically synchronized with said local database.

35. The system of Claim 32 wherein said local server computer and said remote server computer are linked by an Internet connection.

36. The system of Claim 32 wherein said means for delivering an advertisement comprises means for delivering a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) string pointing to the advertisement.

37. The system of Claim 32 wherein the profile of the person contains demographic data.

38. The system of Claim 37 wherein said demographic data includes data on the person's age.

39. The system of Claim 37 wherein said demographic data includes data on the person's gender.

40. The system of Claim 37 wherein said demographic data includes data on the person's income.

41. The system of Claim 37 wherein said demographic data includes data on the person's highest attained education level.

42. The system of Claim 32 wherein the profile of the person contains psychographic data.

43. The system of Claim 42 wherein said psychographic data indicates the person's interests.

44. The system of Claim 32 wherein said means of monitoring which of said plurality of Web sites the person accesses comprises identifying Uniform Resource Locator (URL) requests made by the person while Web surfing.

45. The system of Claim 32 wherein said local server computer is located at an Internet Service Provider (ISP) point of presence.

46. The system of Claim 32 wherein the means for developing a profile of a person comprises means for combining the profiles of the Web sites accessed by the person to an existing profile using an averaging algorithm.

47. The system of Claim 46 wherein said profile includes data on a plurality of demographic categories, each associated with a rating, and the system further comprises means for filling in a value for the rating for any demographic category having a low confidence measure.

48. The system of Claim 47 wherein filling in a value comprises using an average rating of persons having similar profiles to that of said person for a category having a low confidence measure.

49. The system of Claim 48 wherein said average rating is determined using a clustering algorithm.

50. The system of Claim 32 further comprising means for erasing records of which Web sites said person has visited after developing the person's profile to protect user privacy.

51. The system of Claim 32 further comprising means for monitoring how long the advertisement is displayed to the user.

52. The system of Claim 32 further comprising means for monitoring whether the user has clicked-through the advertisement.

53. A computer readable medium comprising a program for profiling a Web user by performing the steps of:

monitoring which of a plurality of Web sites having predetermined profiles the user accesses; and

developing a profile of the user by inferring demographics of the user based on the profiles of the Web sites accessed by the user.

54. The computer readable medium of Claim 53 wherein the medium comprises a removable memory.

55. The computer readable medium of Claim 53 wherein the medium comprises a signal transmission.

56. A computerized method of profiling Web users and selectively delivering content to said users, comprising:

providing profiles of a plurality of Web sites, said profiles including demographic data of persons known to have visited said sites;

electronically monitoring which of said plurality of Web sites each of said users visits;

developing a profile of each user by inferring demographics of the user based on the profiles of the Web sites visited by the user;

identifying a target group of said users who would be receptive to receiving certain content based on their profiles; and

selectively delivering the content to users of that target group.

57. The computerized method of Claim 56 wherein said content comprises advertisements.

58. The computerized method of Claim 57 wherein said advertisements comprises a pop-up advertisements.

59. The computerized method of Claim 58 wherein said advertisements comprises a banner advertisements.

60. The computerized method of Claim 58 further comprising monitoring how long the content is displayed to the user.

61. The computerized method of Claim 60 further comprising monitoring whether the user has clicked-through the content.

62. The computerized method of Claim 56 further comprising adjusting the target group to optimize user responsiveness to the content.

63. The computerized method of Claim 62 wherein said content comprises an advertisement, and determining user responsiveness to the content comprises determining how many users have clicked-through the advertisement.